

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

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**GOV. EASLEY URGES HOMEOWNERS TO APPLY FOR  
OPERATION BRIGHTER DAY AID**

*Homeowners in the 50 Disaster-Declared Counties Have Until Dec. 1 to Apply*

**RALEIGH** – Gov. Mike Easley today urged homeowners with damage from the 2004 hurricane season to apply for Operation Brighter Day grants before the December 1 deadline. These grants may be used to help repay Small Business Administration (SBA) loans that were secured following the storms. In additions, these funds may be used to repair uninsured damage to homes.

“These funds are available to reduce debt of a previous SBA loan or to assist with uninsured damage to a primary residence,” said Easley. “We want to ensure that everyone who is eligible receives this assistance to complete recovery efforts.”

The N.C. Redevelopment Center, which is coordinating the programs to help homeowners rebuild, is administering \$2.4 million in Operation Brighter Day grant funds provided by the General Assembly as part of the Hurricane Recovery Act.

Eligible applicants must have received notice from the SBA that their loan was approved. An applicant did not have to take the loan to be considered for the grant.

The 50 counties included in the 2004 disaster declaration are Alamance, Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Bladen, Brunswick, Buncombe, Burke, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Caswell, Catawba, Cleveland, Columbus, Cumberland, Dare, Davidson, Forsyth, Gaston, Graham, Guilford, Haywood, Henderson, Hoke, Hyde, Iredell, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Moore, New Hanover, Pender, Polk, Randolph, Robeson, Rockingham, Rutherford, Scotland, Stokes, Swain, Transylvania, Union, Watauga, Wilkes and Yancey.

Homeowners who meet these criteria are urged to contact Belinda Jones of the N.C. Redevelopment Center for additional information at 919/733-1566. Jones also can be contacted by email at [bejones@nccrimecontrol.org](mailto:bejones@nccrimecontrol.org) or by mail at 102 N. Salisbury Street, 20325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-0325.

All applications must be received by December 1.

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